

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (AS ANNEXED TO THE IPER)**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched  $\alpha$ -amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched  $\alpha$ -amino nitrile is contacted with a Lewis acid catalyst in an aprotic solvent.
2. (original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the Lewis acid catalyst comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides.
3. (original) Process according to claim 2 wherein the metal is chosen from the group consisting of Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides.
4. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein a catalyst with the general structure  $M_nX_pS_qL_r$  is used, wherein M represents the metal, X represents an anionic counterion or covalently bound anionic ligand for non zero valent metals, S represents a spectator ligand, L represents a neutral ligand, n represents an integer larger than or equal to 1 and p, q and r each independently represent an integer larger than or equal to 0, and in which n and p are chosen such that  $M_nX_p$  is neutral.
5. (original) Process according to claim 4 wherein the catalyst is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxydes and lanthanocenes.

6. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a resolution process.

7. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with an enzymatic resolution process.

8. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a crystallization induced resolution.

9. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 6-8~~ claim 6, wherein the resolution process is combined with racemisation in situ.

10. (original) Process according to claim 9, wherein the racemisation is performed in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.